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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Thursday - 27 July 1972

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10. [REDACTED] Accompanied Mr. Paul Walsh, ADDI, to a briefing of Senators Fulbright and Aiken and Messrs. Marcy, Moose and Lowenstein, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, on the subject of alleged bombing of the dikes in North Vietnam. Mr. Walsh gave an excellent short briefing in which he pointed out the magnitude of the dike system and then showed a series of photographs showing bomb damage to some of the dikes. The meeting was quite cordial and seemed to completely satisfy the Senators and staff although Senator Fulbright did comment that there was obviously damage done to the dikes whether it was intentional or not. Senator Symington put in an appearance but left without asking any questions or making any comment.

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11. [REDACTED] SA/DDS, advised that David Martin, on the staff of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, has called Clyde Carter, of the Air America office, to get some information from him on the drug situation and Carter is to meet with Martin on Monday.

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12. [REDACTED] In response to his request yesterday, referred Jay Sourwine, Chief Counsel, Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, to the Department of State for statistics on the immigration influx into Hong Kong from Mainland China and told him that we do not have any information which would substantiate his characterization of the unpublished Paul Scott column on this subject. I also referred Mr. Sourwine to the article by Lee Lescaze in today's Washington Post as being a reasonably accurate story.

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NOTE FOR MR.

SUBJECT: Questions Raised by Lowenstein at the
Briefing of Senator Fulbright

George --

In the event that Lowenstein inquires about the things he asked at my briefing of Senator Fulbright on Thursday, 27 July, you may wish to talk from the following comments:

Question: Do we have an unclassified map of the dikes?

Answer: No. The maps Lowenstein and I were looking at at the table are the best that we can do. We do have a set scaled at 1 to 50,000, but working with this would require working from about 12 maps, and would be extremely arduous.

Question: Can we confirm damage to a dike or dam at a place called Minh Chanh?

Answer: We are unable to locate such a place. This is not uncommon since the North Vietnamese frequently refer to locations by local names which are not in our gazetteer. This was true, for example, in their reporting of the damage at Nam Sach.

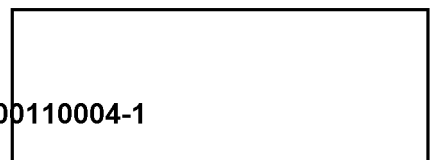
Question: Is there any other post-strike reconnaissance effort?

Answer: Yes. Under the program. These are missions flown by both Air Force and Navy

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as regular reconnaissance missions along with the combat strikes. The photography comes back to us in pretty good time. We don't make much use of it for several reasons--the volume is much too great, and it is very fragmentary. Thus, we find it much easier to work with [redacted] and drone photography which give us much better coverage. We do like [redacted] photography if the initial readout from the field reports something that seems to be significant.

Question: Mr. Lowenstein asked me to try to determine the earliest dates on which the craters shown in our 12 boards were detectable.

Answer: With the exception of one board, all of the craters were results of combat actions between 11 June and 10 July. The exception is board No. 4 where the craters shown on the dike were a result of strikes flown on 10 May. These were the missions that resulted in the interdiction of the Hai Duong rail and highway bridge, a major transportation target. The PI readout in reporting this damage reported the destruction of the bridge and the existence of craters along the approaches to the bridge. The approaches mentioned in the readout were the road and rail connections to the bridge and were on top of the dike. I am not able from this distance to confirm at what point and time the Air Force in Saigon had access to this photography.

[redacted]

Paul V. Walsh
ADDI

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Wednesday - 26 July 1972

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5. [] Talked to Dick Cook, who handles the House side of the Congress for the White House, and told him about our concern over the Laos ceiling. Cook seemed to be entirely uninformed about the situation. When I said I understood some thought was being given to solving the problem by changes in language, but we believed the complete deletion of the ceiling would be preferable, Cook agreed.

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6. [] Ralph Preston, Staff Assistant, House Appropriations Committee, called to say Chairman Mahon would like the Director to appear before the Special Group on Wednesday, 2 August at 10:00 a.m. for a world roundup briefing.

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7. [] Jim Lowenstein, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called to confirm our briefing of Chairman Fulbright tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 regarding the bombing of dikes question. He said Chairman Fulbright would like Senator Aiken to attend and wanted to be sure we would bring photographic material.

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8. [] Called Ed Braswell, Chief Counsel, Senate Armed Services Committee, and said the Agency had no interest in the Nelson amendment which would cut off funds for any activities designed to modify weather conditions for military purposes.

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9. [] During the Director's appearance on the Hill, I received a call from Mr. Ralph Preston, House Appropriations Committee staff, who told me the Chairman has scheduled Wednesday morning, 2 August, at 10:00 for briefing of the Special Group. He has decided against a briefing of the Defense Subcommittee. In a second conversation he said that since the Director is on the Hill, the Chairman would appreciate it if Mr. Helms could stop by his office in the Capitol, Room H 218, after he finishes his session with the Armed Services Committee. The Director was advised.

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10. [] Talked to Mr. Jack Sullivan and Miss Helen Mattas, House Foreign Affairs Committee staff, and confirmed the final arrangements for the Director's briefing of the full Foreign Affairs Committee tomorrow, 27 July, at 10:00 a.m.

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ADDENDUM TO JOURNAL


OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 25 July 1972

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2.  Received a call from Mr. Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, who told me that Senator Jackson (D., Wash.) had posed a number of questions to Secretary Laird in his appearance before Senate Armed Services yesterday. The same questions may well be asked of the Director in his appearance tomorrow before House Armed Services. Mr. Slatinshek will make a copy of them available for him early in the morning.

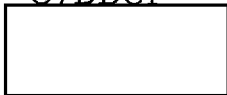
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Assistant Legislative Counsel

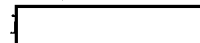
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Mr. Houston
Mr. Thuermer



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25X1 4. [] Jim Lowenstein, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, called and said Chairman Fulbright would like him, Carl Marcy and Richard Moose to attend the Chairman's briefing by an Agency representative on the bombing of dikes in North Vietnam. They proposed 3:30 Thursday, 27 July, in room S-116 in the Capitol. Paul Walsh, Acting DDI who will do the briefing has been notified.

25X1 5. [] Talked to Marshall Wright, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, and explained that we would prefer that Mr. Abshire not attend our breakfast meeting with Senator Henry Bellmon and his group of junior Republican senators.

Mr. Wright spoke of the shambles resulting from yesterday's Senate action on the foreign aid bill and said the Administration now had three options-- a new bill in the Senate, a House bill (which the Senate would probably mutilate) or submit the entire old foreign aid bill as an amendment to the military authorization. He predicted that the second alternative, the House bill, would be the most likely prospect.

I raised the question of the Laos ceiling, remarking that we would hope to see this entire provision struck out in conference. Wright said he was not up-to-date on this but he did understand that Defense was trying to work out a deal with Chairman Hebert, House Armed Services Committee, to insert some "artful language" in the bill that would limit the effect of the ceiling. I said it seemed to us that having the ceiling struck out entirely would be far preferable since the "artful language" approach was likely to get us in trouble and cost us our credibility.

25X1 6. [] Met with Nancy Bearg, Research Assistant, Senate Armed Services Committee, who briefed me on the highlights of Secretary Laird's testimony before the Committee yesterday on SALT.

25X1 7. [] In the absence of Frank Slatinshek, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, I left a message with his secretary, Miss Kalinowski, reemphasizing what I had told him yesterday of our serious concern about the Laos ceiling, and our belief that every possible effort should be made in conference to strike out this provision entirely, rather than modifying it with technical changes in the language. Miss Kalinowski was aware of the problem and said that she didn't think the matter would come up for several weeks.

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24 July 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Director's Conversation with Secretary of Defense Laird
Re Chairman Fulbright's Query on Dike Bombing

The Director told me today of his conversation on the 21st of July with Secretary Laird during which he had asked Laird's wishes about handling Chairman Fulbright's letter to the Director asking for a briefing on the bombing of dikes in North Vietnam. Mr. Laird said he would be glad if the Director would handle this matter since the Agency had good credibility on the Hill and could probably satisfy Fulbright that no dikes had been hit intentionally in the course of U.S. bombing missions.

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JOHN M. MAURY
Legislative Counsel

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